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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405

January 19, 2006

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Matthew K. Rose  
Chief Executive Officer  
Burlington Northern Sante Fe Corporation  
2650 Lou Menk Drive, 2nd Floor  
Fort Worth, TX 76131

Dear Mr. Rose:

I am concerned about reports that Burlington Northern has decided to increase the speed of its trains through the town of Casselton from 40 miles per hour to 60 miles per hour.

This is a subject that we have talked about in years past and I am writing to tell you I think it is a mistake for your company to decide to ignore the interests of the community on the issue of the speed of your trains.

It may well be that because of a Supreme Court decision you can increase your speed and make it stick.

But that doesn't make it right!

I believe that a railroad has a responsibility to consider local interests, and I think the interests of the city of Casselton should be respected by Burlington Northern. I have spent time in that city visiting with the Mayor and others over the years. For one of your trains to come barreling through the main street of Casselton at 60 miles per hour, I think, is just flat wrong.

I ask you to reconsider this decision and to understand your responsibility to accept the reasonable expectations of the people in the communities that your trains pass through.

This is not only about the interests of Casselton, North Dakota, but about the responsibilities of a railroad company to cooperate and work with local communities on reasonable speed limits for trains.

Matthew Rose  
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If this issue is not resolved, I intend to ask the Senate Commerce Committee to hold a hearing on the subject of train speed and community interests.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Byron".

Byron L. Dorgan  
U.S. Senator

*Thanks for responding  
to this request!*